

Maths Week

Last week it was lots of fun for all of us. We did lots of fun activities. Pupils from 4th & 5th class made announcements on the intercom every morning. We did a riddle and a maths song every day. We did an estimation quiz too. We got to estimate a giant box of marshmallows for a chance to win them for our class. Tara Murphy from 6th Class got the closest guess, only 2 away from the actual number and so 6th class got to share the whole box. We picked a Maths Whizz from each classroom every day and did all sorts of games and quizzes with our teachers and friends. We had so much fun this week. (Amber O' Toole, Saoirse Redmond, Ellie-Mae Redmond)



A colorful collage celebrating Maths Week 2024. The central text reads "Maths Week 2024" in large, bold, yellow letters. Surrounding the text are several photographs: a teacher and two young boys at a table; a group of children sitting around a large table working on projects; a group of children and a teacher posing for a photo; a group of children sitting at a table with a teacher; and a group of children sitting at a table with a teacher. In the center of the collage are various mathematical symbols and tools: a calculator, a ruler, a protractor, a pencil, and formulas such as 12345 , $(a+b)$, $f(x)$, π , $\sqrt{25}$, and $x \cdot y = 12$.

Name Labels on Jumpers

Please ensure that your child's name is written on the label of their school jumpers. We have had a number of missing jumpers already this year and none of them have a name on the label.

Parents Association Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M of our Parents' Association took place on Tuesday, October 1st. There were six parents in attendance. A huge thank you to the outgoing officers, Denise, Barbara and Carol for all of their hard work. Rachel Grendon has been elected as our new chairperson, and we wish her well in the role over the year. We extend our thanks as a school to all parents who have been involved and help out with the P.A. They make so many nice experiences possible for the children. This year, we are fundraising for a school playground. We would love the additional support of a committee of parents

to help with this, and hope for a sub-committee on the P.A to come up with some ideas to work on this. The sooner we raise these additional funds, it will become a reality

Message from Fr. Finn

Fr. Finn invites all members of the school community and the parish to First Friday Mass each month in Ballymurn Church. This mass takes place each month at 10am on the first Friday of each calendar month. Any parents and parishioners that attend are invited to the hall for a cup of tea afterwards.

Halloween Hike

Our Halloween Hike is one of the most exciting days and one of our main school fundraisers each year. All members of the school community dress up and we walk from school to Ballymurn Montessori. This year, the Hike takes place on Friday morning, October 25th. Like last year the proceeds will go towards the development of a school playground. Children will bring home sponsorship cards in October.



Our school is looking 'Spook-tacular' this week. 🎃👻

Huge thank you to Monica for our amazing indoor decorations and to Clodagh, Etienne, Josh & Noah Botha, Kath Parker, Saoirse, Aine & Aiobhín for their fabulous time and effort putting together our outdoor decorations!

The children had a lovely surprise 🤖

Building Works

The reconfiguration of our autism classrooms is currently underway. KSN Project Management are overseeing the works, which are being completed by contractors Martin Reddin Ltd. Phase 1 will be complete next week and the Crescent Class will move into their new room after midterm. The reconfiguration of their current classroom and sensory room will begin next week, as well as construction of our outdoor soft play area.

Hurling 365

It was great to see Hurling 365 back up and running with pupils out leaning the skills of hurling before school. Any pupils from Senior Infants to 6th Class can take part. Contact the office for further information.

Uniform

Children should wear the school uniform of navy crew neck jumper, navy tracksuit bottoms and a blue polo shirt each day. Navy or black shorts are allowed in warmer weather. Children should wear runners each day. Long hair should be tied back neatly and the only jewellery permitted are a watch and stud earrings. Make up should not be worn in school.

New Autism Class

Ballymurn N.S. will be opening a second autism class in September 2025. Enrolment for this class will take place towards the end of this term alongside enrolment for our mainstream classes. If you might be applying for a place in our autism class for your child, please touch base with us to ensure that you have all the necessary information about what reports are required to gain admission to an autism class, so that you have time to ensure that you have what is needed before enrolment opens. Please share this message with anybody you think it may be of interest to, and advise them that our office can be contacted at 053-9138435 or ballymurnprincipal@gmail.com.

Morning Supervision

School gates do not open until 9.10am, and no pupils should be on the premises before this. Morning supervision is outdoors, and on wet days, children must wait in the shelter until school opens at 9.20am. Please ensure that adults who are dropping your kids to school take care to not pull in or turn opposite the school gates. I'd like to thank everyone for their cooperation on this matter.

Communication

Parents are reminded that if you have a concern/issue which you would like to raise with the school; you must make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher, through the school office.

5K Fun Run

Our annual 5K Fun Run will take place on Sunday January 26th 2025.

Annual Shoebox Appeal

Again this year our school will take part in the annual Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. Leaflets are available from the school office or you can take part online by using the below link. All Shoeboxes must be return to the school on or before Monday 4th November. For more information on the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal please click on this link www.teamhope.ie

Parking

Please remember to park with care on the street outside the school. Do not double park or block access to staff cars. The car park spaces provided are for staff use and the school bus only. We also

ask that people please do not park directly opposite the school, as our bus for pupils with Special Educational Needs parks there. Please do not park in these spaces when dropping off or collecting your child from school. Please be conscious of how/where you park, taking the children's safety into account at all times.

Child Safeguarding Statement - Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is available on our school website, or a copy can be acquired by the school. The annual review will take place at our next Board of Management meeting. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in Ballymurn NS is Ms. Emer O'Gorman and the Deputy DLP is Ms. Chloe Ormonde. If you have any concerns regarding child protection, please contact the DLP, or in her absence, the Deputy DLP.

Absences -Leanna has sent a text to all families containing the link for our back to school form, which must be filled in each time your child returns following an absence from school. This link is also available on our website, [ballymurnns.ie](https://forms.gle/8EzXYXDEk5SnVAH9A), under the "Useful Information Tab"

<https://forms.gle/8EzXYXDEk5SnVAH9A>

As always, we must remind parents that we are obliged by law to report instances where children have been absent for a cumulative total of twenty days or more during the school year to Tusla.

Garda Vetting - It is a legal requirement that any parents who wish to be involved in school activities e.g. Rackard League, Hurling 365 etc., must be Garda vetted through the school. We realise that many parents are already Garda vetted through the G.A.A and other organisations, but unfortunately, everybody still needs to go through the school vetting process. If you would like to become involved and have not been vetted previously, please contact the school office for a form. This also applies if you are giving a lift to another child to matches

Parent Contact Details If you have changed your home address or contact numbers, please email Leanna with your new details (office@ballymurnns.ie)

Dates for your Diary

- October 25th - Halloween Hike 10am
- Midterm Break School closed Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November
- November 13th - Heritage in Schools Visit
- November 13th - Sing Out Loud, 7.30pm National Opera House
- November 18th & 19th - Parent Teacher Meetings
- December 17th - Infant Nativity 1pm Ballymurn Church
- December 19th - Christmas Carol Service 7pm Ballymurn Church

Classroom Reports

The Crescent Class

The Crescent Class have had a flying start to the new school year and have been very active throughout the school in September and October. We welcomed a new student Robbie to our class and we have all been enjoying getting to know Robbie.

Every day we have been practising our fine and gross motor skills using the Move to Write programme. We have also loved playing in our daily sensory trays. We have absolutely loved integrating to our mainstream classrooms with our teachers Ms. Lawlor, Ms. Sutton and Ms. Sheehan

and we have also enjoyed opportunities to bring our friends into our own classroom for reverse integration sessions including playing with LEGO education & doing art.

Our themes for the past 2 months have been 'back to school,' 'sports,' 'autumn' and now 'Halloween.' In English, we have been using these themes by looking at and talking about oral language posters, writing sentences about the posters, listening and responding to stories such as 'Olympig' and 'Pumpkin Soup' and playing bingo. In SESE we have been going on nature walks, trips to the shop, trips to the church and creating a map of Ballymurn village.

For life skills practice, the children have been learning how to wash windows, clean tables, pick up little, bake fairy cakes, bake porridge bread and make chocolate apples. The children love participating in these activities and we have been working on our procedural writing by writing/sticking up the sequence of events afterwards.

In Maths the children have been learning about shapes, counting, addition & time. We learned a song to remind us about how many days are in each month and we even created a large editable classroom calendar so we can keep track of special occasions in school and tell the date each morning.

I hope everyone has a lovely Halloween break, Ms. Ormonde. :)

Junior and Senior Infant Class Report

We have had a wonderful first half-term in Junior and Senior Infants. The new members of our class have settled in so well, and the Senior Infants have been fantastic at showing them the ropes. We've worked on four main themes over the two months, which were *Myself and My Home*, *School*, *Autumn* and *Halloween*. These formed the basis of our playful learning, and we explored each theme in detail through role play, small world play, construction, sand, water play and art. We learned a huge amount about Autumn, animals and trees in the local habitat and the human body in Science. We drew painted and constructed houses, hedgehogs, autumn trees, Frankenstein and many other artistic pieces. We listened to lots of wonderful stories on the various themes and met some fantastic characters in these. *Sa Ghaeilge*, we covered the themes 'Mé Féin', 'Sa Bhaile' agus 'Oíche Shamhna'. The children learned lots of new songs, rhymes and vocabulary and can converse in these areas. We've also been working on the new Primary Maths Curriculum and through playful learning experiences, have worked on learning outcomes relating to 2D Shapes, Patterns, and Number. The development of fine motor skills is so important at Infant level and we have been completing the 'Move Right' programme in this area, as well as doing lots of cutting work and playdough manipulation to develop hand and finger strength for writing. Early literacy is another key area that we focus on, and we are using the Heggerty programme to develop phonological awareness skills. Junior Infants have started to learn their initial Jolly Phonics sounds and Seniors have moved onto the alternative sounds for Seniors and new tricky words. We've learned lots of poems and songs too. In P.E., we've worked on the Fundamental Movement Skills of Walking and Running, and explored the strand unit of playgrounds. We've also completed some very important S.P.H.E lessons on Kindness and Being Good Friends. I am really impressed with all of the learning that has taken place in our room so far this year and look forward to building on this after Halloween.

1st Class News

We've had a very busy time in our classroom over the past nine weeks. The children have been working very hard with all subjects. They have been practising giving and receiving compliments everyday and they've almost filled their compliment heart with lots of colour!

Our Aistear themes were *Myself and my family* and *Autumn and Halloween*. Our role-play area during October has been a Wizard and Witches Workshop. They've played imaginatively, writing spells and cooking up potions in the cauldron. We added a spooky shop too where they practised their money skills, buying and selling ingredients for the cauldron.

In English, we've been learning how to write a recount. This is something they have spent lots of time doing orally in Aistear so soon the children will be able to write their own recounts using the language they've learned already.

Last week we really enjoyed Maths Week having lots of fun mathematical activities to do each day. The children learned about tally marks and they used Smarties to show information about colour and quantity on a graph. The daily maths jokes made everyone laugh so hopefully they shared a few of them at home too!

If at any stage you need to contact me, my email address is niamh@ballymurnns.ie. I hope everyone has lots of fun during the mid-term break. Happy Halloween!



Ms Sutton's 2nd & 3rd Class

Welcome back to 2nd and 3rd class where we have had a very busy few months in school.

The children have been enjoying reading the fantastic book 'George's Marvellous Medicine' by Roald Dahl and have even come up with their own awful medicine ingredients.

We had great fun during Maths week with lots of different games and interactive ideas. The children even took some pictures with their own 'Maths Eyes'. We have worked on on Place value, Addition and Time and I would encourage lots of work on time at home aswell.

Our monthly highlight was our fantastic trip to Johnstown Castle. The children spent a lot time creating their own beautiful cardboard castles in school and it was fantastic to be able to spend time in a real castle having learnt all about them. They all wrote really interesting recounts about their trip to the castles with many children asking for more and more pages they just had so much to write! We have been taking part in Gaeilge dramas and have played lots of language games to boost our love of the language. At the moment we are working on Oíche Shamhna and the foclóir and spraoi of Halloween.

One of the children's favourite songs this month was 'The Rattlin Bog' which I'm sure they would love to give you a rendition of. The boys and girls in 3rd class are really excited for their performance in Sing out Loud and they are practicing all the wonderful songs for this year's show.

Our September Stem activities included marshmallow towers, dancing raisins and bouncing bubbles and the children had great fun while learning the science behind the activities.

I wish everyone a lovely mid-term break and a fun Halloween.

Ms Sutton

4th & 5th Class Report

It's been a busy start to this year and we have all worked really hard and are ready for a well-earned rest next week!! In English and Gaeilge we have been reading every day, writing Recounts, we've

learned poems, tongue twisters and lots more. We have also just added another language to our repertoire: we are now learning some French; *oh la la!* 😊

We really enjoyed Maths Week and are developing our mathematician skills every day. We have learned about Place Value, Operations, Problem Solving Strategies, Time, Lines and Angles and Estimation.

In SESE we have studied the history and geography of our village and our county. We even managed a visit to Ballinkee House. The children have completed some mini-projects. We have learned about Deep Ocean Life creatures and we studied the Brain.

We have lots of budding artists in our room. The class have been drawing still life pictures over the last few weeks and have produced some amazing work which we hope to share after Halloween. The children are also getting really good at reading music and playing Recorder.

The highlight of our term was Pyjama Day which we enjoyed last Thursday. The children decided on the classroom rules they wanted at the beginning of the year and their hard work and good behaviour was rewarded with a lovely cosy day in pjs and slippers. They have set a new target for themselves now and they are looking forward to a Baking Day sometime in the coming weeks.

Ms Morrissey's 6th Class

It's hard to believe it is the end of our first term here in 6th Class already! It has been incredibly busy, filled with lots of learning and fun. Here are some of our highlights!

Literacy

In literacy we have been diving into our new novel *Wonder*, by R. J Palacio. We have done some character studies comparing main characters, created our own precepts or mottos for life, written diary entries from August's perspective and loads more. We have also worked extremely hard on writing spooky Halloween stories which we will read to our buddies later this week. A lot of work went into these, well done everyone!

Numeracy

In numeracy, we have been very busy. We are doing a mix of solo work, paired work and group tasks each week. We have been doing lots of work around number and problem solving. Students have been getting lots of opportunity to use lots of hands on resources to show and explain their thinking. Maths Week was also a highlight with many many activities, challenges and puzzles throughout the week.

Gaeilge

Children have been working so hard at their reading, writing and speaking this term. We have learned all about ourselves, food and where we live through stories, games and interactive tasks. Children have been working hard on past tense verbs and using the trick 'VSOW' to write structured simple sentences. Well done everyone, keep up the hard work.

SESE

We have covered all things food and farming in September through our geography and science topic of farming. This looked at a range of types of farming, imports and exports, alternatives such as organic farming and also the the food supply chain and how this affects employment. We finished with a look at foods from around the world and did a mini project on a country of our choosing. In October we looked at the main organs and systems of the human body. To finish, we looked at one system in more detail, the skeletal system. The kids are being challenged to create a bionic hand based off of some of our new learning this week. Will they succeed?!

P.E

Kids have been learning ball handling skills and a variety of different ways to travel and pass such as bounce pass, chest pass, overhead pass and the different reasons we need to execute different passes. Children were also working in small groups to come up with their own playground games. They had to think of rules, names and resources needed and then we all got the play and trial run each of these games with some feedback provided after. Some great ideas and lots of fun was had!

Girls Rackard League Report

This year in the football Rackard League the girls played 4 matches against Piercestown, Castlebridge and Glynn in the group stages. We lost all three of them. The match against Castlebridge was very tight but in the end Castlebridge won. We played Rosslare in the $\frac{1}{4}$ final where we lost and got knocked out. A big well done to the girls Rackard League Football Team.

Report by Caoimhe Walsh

Student Council Report

In my year on the Student Council, the Student Council were Jack McNicholas, Jessica Quirke, Ellie Sheehan, Oscar Lafferty, Amelia Doyle, Charlie Healy, Ellie Mae Redmond and myself Tara Murphy.

Over the year we had meetings to think and talk about our ideas. Over the year we also helped with Grandparents day, Pancake Tuesday, Wellbeing Week etc.

I would like to wish a great year to our incoming Student Council Amelia Kavanagh, Jackson Kehoe, Zoe Sludds, Daithi Redmond, Niamh Farrell, Robbie Dempsey, Alex King and Finn Roche.

Report by Tara Murphy

**NEWLY ELECTED
STUDENT COUNCIL**



**Student
Council**



**WELL DONE TO LAST YEARS
STUDENT COUNCIL**

Boys Rackard League Report

This year's Rackard League football season for the boys was a competitive. Our first game was against Taghmon in Ballymurn pitch. We worked hard for the 50 minutes we played and in the end, after good passing and communication we got the win. It was a good start for the team.

Next was Kilmore NS. We tried from the start until the finish but unfortunately we lost. We were disappointed but that wasn't going to stop us.

The team were supposed to play against Our Ladies Island but they gave us a walk over.

Probably the biggest match yet was the District Final, and once again, against Kilmore. We were doing good at the start, but the ball barely moved from the defence and again we lost the match. We were disappointed but we would have to move on.

Finally, after losing the district final, we played against Glynn Barntown in a county $\frac{1}{4}$ final. We were doing good, but they were just better than us that day and we lost. So that means that the Rackard League football was over for us, but we still had lots of fun and enjoyed getting out of school early.

Report by Tyler O'Toole